

Serial No.: 09/807,689  
Group Art Unit: 2832

### REMARKS

Claims 6-13 are pending in this application. The following remarks are in response to the referenced paragraphs from the Office Action of December 17, 2003.

Applicants would first like to thank Examiner Donovan for the courtesy extended to their representative, Steven E. Bach, during a telephonic interview, summarized below. Applicants' representative pointed out that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest operating points on opening and closing contact springs located at different distances from the base plane. Examiner Donovan agreed to consider this argument. As this argument was previously submitted in the Amendment dated September 22, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the finality of the present rejection be withdrawn. Examiner Donovan then kindly discussed alternative claim language for the stepped slide, which claim language is incorporated in newly added claims 14 and 15.

### Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirsch (U.S. Pat. No. 5,831,502) in view of Fausch (U.S. Pat. No. 6,034,582). Claim 10 is not addressed, but is assumed to be rejected for purposes of this response.

Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 6 is allowable, because it includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references or any combination thereof, namely "the slide being configured to act on the active spring contact of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different distance from the base than the distance from the base at which the

Serial No.: 09/807,689  
Group Art Unit: 2832

slide acts on the corresponding closing spring contact.” The Office Action contends that Kirsch discloses “an actuating slide [18] movable parallel to the base plane to act on each active spring contact and configured to act on one of the spring contacts of the pair of opening spring contacts at a different distance (plane) from the base than the distance from the base at which the slide act on the other of the spring contacts.” A careful reading of Kirsch will show that it is directed to a multi-component slide that can provide a varying slot width (see e.g., col. 6, lines 11-12). Thus, the different activation points of Kirsch are in the direction of the slide action (by varying the slot widths), and not at different distances from the base plane as claimed in claim 6. During the telephonic, referenced above, Examiner Donovan suggested that lug [19] and front lug [20], being at different distances from the base plane (i.e., the bottom surface of Fig. 1, which is not numbered). Applicants respectfully disagree, as discussed during the interview. The actuators, dog block [39] and guide element [17] would contact the respective contact springs at the same distance from the base plane (see Fig. 5). Neither Kirsch nor any other cited reference suggests the advantage of acting on the opening and closing spring contacts at different distances from the base plane, thereby providing different actuating forces. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 6, as amended is allowable over the cited references. Claim 11 includes a similar feature with acting points at different distances from the base plane, and is allowable for the reasons provided above that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 7-10 and 12-13 depend from claims 6 and 11 and are allowable for the reasons that claims 6 and 11 is allowable.

Serial No.: 09/807,689  
Group Art Unit: 2832

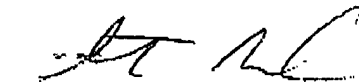
### **Currently Added Claims**

Claims 14-15 have been added to more particularly claim the integral slide and the stepped slide configuration as discussed in the Interview. No new matter has been added.

### **Conclusion**

For all of the reasons provided above, Applicants contend that claims 6-15 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, allowance of claims 6-15, and issuance of Letters Patent for this invention.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Steven E. Bach  
Registration No. 46,530  
Attorney for Applicant  
Phone: (610) 889-3697  
Facsimile: (610) 889-3696